

# WOODPILE



Winter 2005  
[www.aca-michigan.org](http://www.aca-michigan.org)

## Letter From ACA Michigan's New President



**Jack Kooyman**

Even though I have been a “camp professional” for the past ten years, I still feel like a relative new-comer. Before beginning my job as executive director of Camp Tall Turf, I did not have any prior professional camp experience or an education in a related field (such as recreation, outdoor education, etc.). My professional experience and education had been in ministry and administration. And now here I am, the newly elected president of ACA, Michigan. So, perhaps you’re wondering—I know I might—“**Who this new guy is and where does he want to lead ACA, Michigan?**”

So that is what I have chosen to share with you in my first Woodpile letter to you as I begin my term as president of the American Camp Association, Michigan.

Just prior to my present job as the president/executive director of Camp Tall Turf, I had worked for several years at a small private college in various administrative capacities at the dean and vice president levels. Before working for the college, however, I had served on staff at church as a minister of youth and education and also as an executive director of a ministry with and among homeless people.

On a more personal note, I have been married 29 years to Debbie, my life partner and best friend. We have three grown children who all attended and worked at Camp Tall Turf over the years. I think it might be interesting for you to know that, before I began working for Camp Tall Turf, my two oldest children had gone to camp there and my wife Debbie had filled in as camp nurse for a couple of summers. Over the past several years, as soon as they were old enough, each of our children chose to work at camp as well.

I believe that the value of ACA accredited camps in Michigan is, to a large extent, unknown in our state. We owe it to you, our ACA members and member camps, as well as to our potential campers/customers to let people know about those of us who choose to hold ourselves and our camps to the highest standards in our profession.

I also believe we ought to do everything we can to encourage, invite and support individuals to join and become involved in ACA. All camp professionals, whether their camp is ACA accredited or not, can benefit from becoming ACA members.

Finally, there are still hundreds of camps in the State of Michigan that are not ACA accredited. I hope that over the next few years that we can encourage and see a sizeable increase in the number of camps that choose to pursue ACA accreditation. Not only will an increase in the number of ACA accredited camps increase our operating income so that we can in turn provide more and better services to ACA camps and individual members, it will—and this is really what it’s all about—provide more campers with a better and safer camp experience.

Peace!

Jack Kooyman, President  
American Camp Association, Michigan

**BOARD MEMBERS**

**President/Delegate  
Legislative Chair**

Jack Kooyman  
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**Vice President of Operations**

Peter Claypoole  
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**Secretary**

Jill Laidlaw  
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**Treasurer**

Ian Longman  
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**Nominating Committee Chair**

Karen Doe  
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**Standards Chair**

Nancy Burger  
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**Complaint Resolutions Chair**

Jin Van Wingerden  
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**Not For Profit Chair**

Jay Collins  
jaycollins@diamondcs.net

**Immediate Past President**

Kathy Treiber

**Amanda Doubet**

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Mon 9:00 am—3:00 pm  
Wed 9:00—11:00 am  
Fri 9:00—3:00 pm

**Camp Leaders Look Forward to Working with ACA, Michigan’s New President**

Jack Kooyman, a member of the American Camp Association since 1994, has been elected to serve as the President of the ACA Michigan Section. Jack has served ACA in a number of roles in the past, including as a Council of Delegates member, Vice President, and as Michigan’s legislative chair. ACA looks forward to Jack’s leadership over the next three years. I look forward to being able to work with Jack as ACA continues to serve children and families through the camp experience.

*Peg Smith, Chief Executive Officer  
American Camp Association*

Jack Kooyman has been a long time advocate for ensuring that children are safe and well cared for when they attend camp. As the ACA Legislative Chair, Mr. Kooyman has worked well with the Office of Children and Adult Licensing and the Camp Licensing program to co-ordinate efforts to regulate camps effectively. I look forward to a continued working relationship with ACA and Mr. Kooyman in his new position as president of ACA, Michigan.

*Janice Tribble, Program Manager  
Camp Licensing  
State of Michigan*

**Letter From Outgoing President, Kathy Treiber**

It has been a blessing and honor to serve our American Camp Association, Michigan Section the past six years as President.

It is with much personal and professional gratitude that I thank those that have served on the ACA, Michigan Section Board the past six years:

Pat Rode, President  
Jack Kooyman, VP Operations  
Karen Doe, Secretary  
Tom DeVault, Treasurer  
Nancy Burger, Standards Chair  
Jim Berigan, Public Relations Chair  
David Van Nuys, Membership Chair  
Jay Collins, Not For Profit Chair  
Sue Meyer, Mid States Liaison  
Jen Beaumont, Fall/Winter Conference Chair  
Jim Van Wingerden, Mid States General chair

Dean Elliott, VP Development  
Renee Deroche, VP Program/Secretary  
Dennis Van Kampen, VP Development  
Steve Greene, Treasurer  
Patrick McFarlane, Public Relations Chair  
Heidi Strand, Public Relations Chair  
Jack Kooyman, Legislation Chair  
Jim VanWingerden, Mid States Liaison  
Charlie Morrison, Mid States Liaison  
Liz Trapp, Fall/Winter Conference Chair

On January 1, 2005, Jack Kooyman, Executive Director of Camp Tall Turf, began his term as President of the American Camp Association, Michigan. Serving with Jack is Peter Claypoole, VP of Operations; Jill Laidlaw, Secretary; Ian Longman, Treasurer; and Karen Doe, Nominating Committee Chair. Please welcome them as our newly elected officers to the board of directors of the American Camp Association, Michigan.

As you think about the “new beginnings” of the year, please consider becoming more involved with our ACA, Michigan. Our strength depends on the time, talent and energy of our own membership and volunteers.

May your lives be filled with an abundance of blessings in this New Year.

Warmly,

Kathy Treiber, Immediate Past President  
American Camp Association, Michigan

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## ACA, MICHIGAN'S NEWLY ELECTED BOARD OFFICERS

### **Peter Claypoole: Vice President of Operations**

While growing up in Michigan, Peter attended Camp Westminster. As he got older, he spent five summers working there as a staff member. Eventually he became the camp's director and served in that capacity for three years. Following his years of service at Camp Westminster, Peter continued his career as a camp professional while serving 13 years as the Executive Director of Presbyterian Clearwater Forest, a regional camp, retreat and conference center in Minnesota. Peter left Minnesota three years ago, returning to Michigan, to serve as the Director of Camps and Outdoor Programs for the Girl Scouts of Metro Detroit (Camp Innisfree and Camp Metamora). He has been a member of ACA since 1985 and was active in the Northland Section where he served as Vice President prior to returning to Michigan. Peter holds an undergraduate degree from Michigan State University and a Master's degree from the University of Minnesota. He and his wife reside in Brighton, Michigan with their two daughters ages 11 and 14.

### **Ian Longman: Treasurer**

Ian Longman began attending camp at the age of five. Little did he know at that time that his love for camp as a child would lead to a lifetime career as a camp professional. Ian began serving as a resident and day camp counselor for Camp Kelley in Athens, Georgia from 1986-1991. He continued his career as Assistant Camp Director for Camp Kelley from 1991-1994 and then as its Director from 1994-1995. Ian continued on in his professional career with the Athens YMCA as its Youth Director where he oversaw a period of financial growth from \$225,000 to \$500,000 in just three years (going from a \$40,000 deficit to a \$60,000 surplus). Ian moved to Michigan in 1998 to serve as the Director of Outdoor Retreat and Conference Camping for YMCA Storer Camps. While with Storer, Ian developed and marketed new revenue generating programs that resulted in growing the department budget from \$425,000 to \$730,000 in three years. During this time he was recognized as one of the top 10 fundraisers for the YMCA of Greater Toledo's Scholarship Campaign. Ian currently serves as the Executive Director of Mystic Lake YMCA Camp of the YMCA of Metro Lansing. Mystic Lake Camp is a year-round outdoor center providing outdoor environmental education, conference camping and summer camp programs. Ian is a longtime member of ACA and serves as a Standards Visitor. Ian lives at YMCA Camp Mystic Lake with his wife Anna and their 16-month-old daughter Corah.

### **Jill Laidlaw; Secretary**

Jill Laidlaw has had a noteworthy career as a camp professional for the past three decades. For the past 20 years, she has served as the Director of the YWCA's Camp Cavell. She began attending camp at age 16 as a Counselor In Training (CIT) at Camp Metamora, a Girl Scouts camp. She apparently caught the camp "bug" and has not turned back since. In addition to her service with Camp Cavell, she also served as the Director of Camp Anna Behrens with the Michigan Waterways Council. She earned an Associates Degree in Coastal Environmental Studies and attended Eastern Michigan University studying recreation, coastal geology and geography. Additionally, she is certified in Technical Tree Climbing, First Aid, and Life Guarding. She also has experience and instructional skills to teach Kayaking, Canoeing, Communications, Group Initiatives, Problem Solving, Nature Activities, and Map Reading. Jill's love for the outdoors, belief in and commitment to the value of the camp experience and sincere love of children is obvious to all who know her.

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## SECTION AWARDS

Here's your chance to recognize outstanding camps and members in our section. Please see the inserted form for more information on these awards. Please return the form to the Section office, Attn: Theresa Dolly, PO Box 6177, Grand Rapids, MI 49516 or Fax to 616.245.5259.

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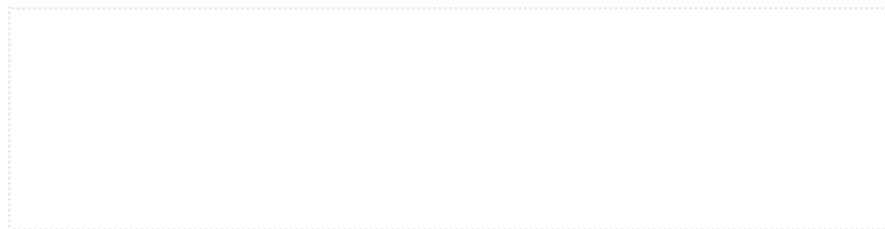
## SUPPORT THE WORK OF ACA, MICHIGAN

Your tax deductible contribution will help ACA, Michigan provide important programs and services to strengthen and support our members and their camps.

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# The WOODPILE

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## American Camp Association, Michigan CALENDAR OF EVENTS

- ◆ **Central Michigan University Camp Job Fair**  
Wednesday February 16, 2005  
Phone: 989.774.3984  
Janice.howell@cmich.edu  
www.rip.cmich.edu
- ◆ **Northern Michigan University Job Fair**  
Wednesday, March 16, 2005 1:00-3:30 pm  
Phone: 906.227.2800  
jobsearch@nmu.edu
- ◆ **ACA National Conference– 2005~**  
February 22-25, 2005  
Disney Coronado Springs Resort
- ◆ **Mid-States Conference**  
April 14-16, 2005  
Pheasant Run Resort
- ◆ **Christian Camping International Conference**  
March 7, 2005  
Camp Michindoh (Hillsdale, MI) 9:30 am